

FINAL Magnuson Park Advisory Committee Minutes
Building 30 Lower Conference Room
February 12, 2014 from 6 – 7:30 PM

Attending: MPAC Members: Julianna Ross (Chair), Ed Bronsdon (Vice-Chair), Peter Zimmerman, Gail Chiarello, Morgan Collins, Lynn Ferguson, Nancy Bolin, Tom Kelly, Loren Hill, Diana Kincaid. Absent: Colby Bradley, Herb Curl, Aaron Hoard. Parks staff: Cheryl Fraser, Brian Judd, Jodi Sinclair. Guests: Alisa Luber (Merry Housing), John Wick (Mountaineers)

Chair Julianna Ross called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of the December Minutes. The January 2014 Minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None

Announcements:

- Julianna Ross announced the Building 9 Committee has met, with Lynn Ferguson, Peter Zimmerman, and Julianna Ross in attendance. The Department of Commerce is seeking ideas from the community on use of the center part of the building and the chapel. The Department of Commerce (DOC) has never “owned” a building before. Julianna will insure that minutes these meetings are e-mailed to MPAC. The timeline to do this work has been revised. DOC will fund development of 200 units of workforce housing, with some possibly subsidized for veterans. The RFP is still being written, and requirements can be written into the RFP. Staff from the University of Washington or Children’s Hospital could represent ideal renters. Membership of the committee includes MPAC representatives and representatives from low-income housing.
- NEDC has written a letter requiring accountability to the Parks Department. [NOTE Gail check actual letter.]
- Lynn Ferguson announced September 28, 2014 would be the 90th Anniversary of the First Flight Around the World, which took off from Magnuson Park. A big commemorative event is planned, with a veterans reunion, and taking of oral history.
- John Wick of The Mountaineers stated that organization’s opposition to a proposed NE 77th Street driveway connecting the North Shore Recreation Area with Sand Point Way. The Mountaineers finds the existing automobile traffic hazardous; there have been several near-misses involving adults and/or children. The Mountains hopes that the opening of the NOAA road would alleviate any pressure to building the 77th Street driveway.
- Ed Bronsdon announced the University Sunrise Rotary Club’s benefit to support “Healthy Packs For Kids.” The fundraiser will be held April 6th at the Mountaineers building and will consist of a wine-tasting involving 30 Washington State wineries. Tickets are \$30.

Radiation Report (Nina “Jodi” Sinclair, Parks Department): Jodi Sinclair is a Senior Environment Analyst with the Parks Department.. Re Building 2: The upstairs remedial section is clean. The contractor is working on a remaining pipe under the main floor concrete. It is a disconnected line that may have trace contaminant. Re Building 27: Workers are removing contaminated materials inside the shed and are putting up temporary supports to secure the building until it comes down hopefully within the next 6 weeks. The shed shares a structural wall with Arena Sports that will become an Arena Sports exterior wall after demolition of the shed. Workers will also make sure that wall is secure and historically restored. Re:the exterior soils and drains to the south and southwest of Building. 27: Contractors are done with the south hill. Three catch basins are being cleaned and/or replaced. A new electrical feed is being installed and the southwest electrical vault will be pulled when the feed is installed. There are 3-8 disposal shipments going out weekly, with levels of radioactive materials so low that these levels don’t trigger truck placards. The double-wall containers have building debris and soils for transport out of state. She hopes and expects, weather permitting, that the work will be done by August and clearances obtained by mid-September. As work proceeds there will be less and less of a publicly visible footprint, with fences coming down or completely removed. Four agencies are involved in the oversight of the Navy’s contracted project--directly involved are the Washington State Departments of Health and Ecology and the City of Seattle’s Parks

Department. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also has review authority but has a consensual agreement with the State to review upon request. The Navy is also following guidelines set by the Nuclear Radiation Commission (NRC) cleanup standards. The goal of the project is to remove all contaminants wherever possible or to remediate to the extent that the area is at or below natural background readings for the immediate region.

The locations of the facility, utility and fuel lines for the base were classified during World War II. If these plans had been public while active, the lines would have been targets for sabotage. These documents usually remain classified until after the base closure. Unfortunately, this information is kept in many different places and documents are commonly lost after closures. That is why research is so difficult and information is discovered after the fact or never comes to light until someone starts digging in the ground or demolishing a building.

There is a second line on the west side of building 27. Newer lines have been taking waste water to sanitary disposal and not the lake for many years now. The two remaining lines to the lake are handling rain water now. However, they were main lines during World War II and the Navy is cleaning those lines and catch basins of any residue materials from that era.

Representative Pollett has called for a Public Meeting. The date is to be determined, possibly May. The State Ecology Department will host that meeting.

Director's Report (Brian Judd):

MPAC Operating Procedures. Brian distributed five copies of proposed revised guidelines for MPAC. There would be four major changes. The terms would have start and end dates. Nominations would be due October 1st, with individual applications due by November 1st, Superintendent approval by December 1st, for a January 1st start date. Some discussion of the various categories of membership followed. Seattle Audubon would nominate an environmental rep. The Athletics Advisory Council would nominate a sports representative.

Possible Dog-Washing Station near the Off-Leash Area. Brian reported Parks has been approached by an individual wishing to offer dog-washing services. The proposed site is near the Dog Walk, behind the garden. King County's Marymoor Park offers this service, a "Brown Bear 4 Dogs." Lynn Ferguson had questions about run-off of the soap and how close the service would be to the wetlands. She stated the need for a cost-benefit analysis. Dog walkers can be highly paid; they charge \$25/hour per dog and often walk 7 dogs at a time. When they use the public OLA, does any of that revenue come back to Parks? Others commented there were always too many dogs in the OLA, and packs of 7 dogs, jumping and fighting, could be menacing to other members of the public. Discussion veered to noting how many dogs are off-leash at Magnuson in other areas of the park. Cheryl Fraser said that was a big concern. There are a number of people with off-leash dogs in the wetlands. Only 10% of them appear to have dog licenses. Cheryl F. pointed out the Animal Control Forms. It was suggested Parks post prominent post information—perhaps on sandwich boards—with the number to call to report these animals to Animal Control

Branding & Marketing Magnuson Park: Brian Judd spoke of the desire to make Magnuson Park a "brand" with its own graphic design.

Other Announcements:

March 4, 2014 5-8PM "Day Camp Open House" at The Brig, in the Matthews Beach Room. Twenty-five day camps will have tables to show-case their offerings.

Mid- to late April: "Boot Camp."

Karla Withrow from the Magnuson Park Community Center has announced 75 more teenagers would be offered residence in the park this summer.

Julianna Ross announced there would be a Building 30 Tenants Meeting Tuesday, February 18th. Ed Brondson noted that the north end of Building 30, which is ADA accessible, needs “to be messaged” with appropriate signage. That door must remain unlocked.

NOAA Road Access (Cheryl Fraser): NOAA has three conditions for opening the road. (1) There must be labor force buy-in and Parks would be meeting with the NOAA staff on February 26th. (2) NOAA wanted improvements to the intersection, with a left-hand turn lane, and another lane for NOAA employees, 450 meters (?) Parks is doing a cost estimate on this work to see if Parks might not do it, themselves. (3) There would have to be a written document, a real estate agreement, signed by both parties. This is being negotiated and a first draft has been prepared.

Questions arose about the NE 77th access road which The Mountaineers opposes. Cheryl said that the permits and designs for this road were prepared by the Building 11 LLC and turned over to the Parks Department as part of the settlement agreement. There are no plans currently to go forward with this, but Cheryl was not going to take it off the table until a Circulation Plan had been done for Magnuson Park. One element of a Circulation Plan, proposed by Tom Kelly, was a 20MPH speed limit throughout the Park. Morgan Collins stated Sail Sand Point would like to be involved; and Loren Hill said the fields users also wanted to be kept in the loop. Ed Brondson also wants to be part of this information chain. John Wicks offered use of The Mountaineers Building for such a meeting. Cheryl Fraser acknowledged the current safety problems with the existing road past The Mountaineers and on to the North Shore Recreation Area.

Legacy Plan Update (Loren Hill). Loren Hill brought forward a revised \$8.7M Investment Initiative for Magnuson Park, and proposed the group endorse this & send it on to the Parks Legacy Committee. He was concerned that the Legacy Committee had not approved any specific funding for Magnuson, nor any specific funding for sports fields at Magnuson, and that fields users had been given the short end of the stick. Loren’s revised Initiative cut in half the amount initially proposed for Magnuson Park, reduced the number of fields from 4 to 2, added funds for a Circulation Plan, implementation of the plan, funds for the NOAA Road, additional monies for the arts and wetlands. One of the fields in Loren’s proposal would be a “multi-use” field which could accommodate soccer, Frisbee, and other sports.

Lengthy & animated discussion ensued. Julianna proposed that the remaining agenda items be put over to the March meeting, in order to give Loren’s proposal vigorous debate. Elements of the debate included discussion of synthetic turf v. grass fields; the impact of lights (many agreed the lights were less bad than feared eight years ago); use of the grassy meadow called The Sports Meadow.

Because recommendations needed to be forwarded to the Legacy Committee by February 20th, the last date for public comment, the decision was made to continue the process via e-mail, with Loren sending around his draft Initiative, seeking input from MPAC, and the final matter put to a vote.

Business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned ~7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Chiarello